



**Northeast
Utilities System**

Northeast Utilities Service Company
101 Federal Street, 13th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02110
(617) 748-5141

bishodm@nu.com

December 30, 2002

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

**RE: Western Massachusetts Electric Company, Annual Report Compliance Filing,
D.T.E. 01-66**

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

Pursuant to the Department of Telecommunications and Energy's ("Department") March 28, 2002 Order in the above-referenced proceeding, Western Massachusetts Electric Company ("WMECO") hereby files its 2003 annual report. This filing complies with the Department's directives found in the Order.

WMECO's 2003 annual report is provided in two binders. Volume 1, the white binder, contains all the following information: (1) 10-year load forecasts and operating load flow studies; (2) significant capital projects; and (3) the process to supply critical loads during emergencies. Volume 2, the burgundy-colored binder, contains the "Distribution System Engineering Manual" which explains the planning and design criteria that WMECO follows.

The load forecasts, Volume 1 – Tab I, are grouped by District and are presented in alphabetical order. These sheets include adjustments for projects planned (*e.g.*, phase balancing, load transfers, new conductors). Load flows are included for circuits whose peak loadings reach 90% or more of their normal ratings, and for circuits that reach 90% or more of their emergency ratings when load from an adjacent circuit automatically transfers over. The load flow summary reports are enclosed adjacent to the appropriate circuits load forecast sheet. A summary of the load flows included is provided on the first page of each "district" section.

A listing of significant reliability and infrastructure improvement projects, Volume 1 – Tab II, is provided for years 2003 through 2005. For the purpose of this report, "significant" for WMECO is greater than \$250,000. Detailed descriptions of each major initiative are provided.

Lastly, Volume 1 – Tab III contains an explanation of our philosophy on supplying critical loads during emergencies. It is a restatement of what was submitted in WMECO's summer 2001 filing.

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Please contact me or Mike Smith at (413)787-9303 should you have any questions in regard to this filing.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Bishop
Manager, Regulatory Policy - Massachusetts

Attachment

cc: Joseph Rogers
Charles Harak